

WILD ROSE CAFÉ

Pages 4-5

On a warm winter day, a mouse shakes itself awake and searches for a snack. It munches on a wild rose plant's long, scraggly roots.

Pages 6-7

A ring-necked pheasant nips at the plant's tasty buds.

Pages 8-9

When the heat of spring melts the snow, the wild rose begins to grow. A deer stops to graze on the plant's tender, new shoots.

Pages 10-11

Aphids hatch from shiny, black eggs. They punch holes in the plant and slurp its sugary juices.

Pages 12-13

A ladybug grabs aphids, one at a time. It chews them slowly with razor-sharp jaws.

Pages 14-15

An ant battles the ladybug with all its might. Then it laps up the sweet, sticky treat that only aphids make.

Pages 16-17

In summer, the rose's pale blossoms gently unfold. When a bumblebee swoops in for a quick nectar meal, it is dusted with powdery pollen.

Pages 18-19

A hungry crab spider lies in wait, watching the bee zip from flower to flower. When the moment is right, the spider darts forward and seizes its prey.

Pages 20-21

Just as the spider finishes its meal, a song sparrow plucks it off the flower.

Pages 22-23

In autumn, the rose blossoms wither and fade. A daddy longlegs stalks the last of the aphids.

Pages 24-25

An American toad catches the daddy longlegs and swallows it whole.

Pages 26-27

A cedar waxwing glides down from the sky and snatches one of the rose plant's bright, red fruits. Then it flies away.

Pages 28-29

The seeds in the fruit pass through the bird's body and drop to the ground. After a long rest in the rich, dark soil, one seed spouts on a warm spring day.

Pages 30-31

The rose plants we grow in our gardens have huge, beautiful flowers, but most of them do not produce seeds. Wild rose plants are different. They have smaller flowers with just five petals. Each year, they produce dozens of healthy seeds.

Wild roses grow in meadows, open woodlands, swamps, and sand dunes all over North America. Throughout the year, insects, mammals, and birds feed on their roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. Many other animals eat the creatures that eat wild rose plants.

Like most plants, the wild rose is at the base of a very large, very complex food chain.

Aphids, mice, pheasants, and deer injure rose plants as they feed, but wild roses can't make seeds unless bees carry pollen from flower to flower. Rose plants also depend on fruit-eating birds to transport their seeds to new places. Seeds are hard and tough, so a bird's body can't digest them. When birds release waste materials, they release the seeds, too.

Most wild rose seeds never grow into new plants, but a few land in places where the conditions are just right. After two years of resting in the soil, these seeds sprout and grow into new plants.

Page 32

Food chain diagram